

Claims:

1. A wire feeder for supplying consumable welding wire to a welding gun, comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a wire advancing mechanism connected to said housing for paying wire
 - 5 from a wire spool to a welding gun;
 - a storage tray formed with said housing; and
 - a wire spool support connected to said housing and rotatably supporting said wire spool, said wire spool support including: a wire spool support tray, an elevated member extending from said wire spool support tray, and a spool
 - 10 retention member connected to said elevated member and rotatably supporting said wire spool.
2. A wire feeder for supplying consumable welding wire to a welding gun, comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a wire advancing mechanism connected to said housing for moving wire
 - 5 from a wire supply to a welding gun; and
 - a tray integrally formed with said housing.
3. The wire feeder of claim 2 wherein said housing includes:
 - a rearward housing end wall into which said wire supply provides said wire to said advancing mechanism; and
 - a forward housing end wall spaced apart from said rearward housing end
 - 5 wall, said wire advancing mechanism positioned between planes generally defined by said rearward and said forward end walls, and said forward end wall having a wire guide tube extending therefrom to said welding gun for directing said wire from said wire advancing mechanism to said welding gun.
4. The wire feeder of claim 3 wherein said tray includes:

a first tray end wall integrally formed with said forward housing end wall;
and

5 a second tray end wall integrally formed with said rearward housing end wall.

5. The wire feeder of claim 2 wherein said tray is formed in an upper portion of said housing.

6. The wire feeder of claim 2 wherein walls of said tray are walls of said housing.

7. The wire feeder of claim 2 wherein said tray includes a base wall spaced apart from an upper end of said housing, said base wall and walls of said housing together forming said tray.

8. The wire feeder of claim 2 further including:
a cover pivotally connected to said housing and moveable between an open position and a closed position wherein said tray and said wire advancing mechanism are covered.

9. The wire feeder of claim 8 wherein said cover in said closed position prevents egress of items in said tray from said tray.

10. The wire feeder of claim 2 further including a cover for selectively covering the wire advancing mechanism, said cover pivotal relative to said housing between a closed position and an open position.

11. The wire feeder of claim 2 wherein said wire supply is one of a canister of coiled welding wire, a box of coiled welding wire and a spool of welding wire.

12. The wire feeder of claim 2 further including:
ball bearing inlet guide mechanism mounted on said housing for directing
said wire from said wire supply to said advancing mechanism.

13. The wire feeder of claim 2 further including:
a wire spool support connected to said housing adjacent a rearward wall
thereof for receiving a spool of welding wire.

14. The wire feeder of claim 13 wherein said wire spool support
includes:

a base tray and an elevated member connected to said base tray, at least
one of said base tray and said elevated member removably connected to said
5 housing; and

spool retention member connected to said elevated member and shaped
to be received in a central opening of a spool of welding wire to allow said spool
of welding wire to rotate freely.

15. The wire feeder of claim 14 wherein said base tray and said
elevated member are removably connected to said housing by bolts.

16. The wire feeder of claim 14 wherein said base tray and said
elevated member are integrally formed.

17. The wire feeder of claim 14 wherein said elevated member extends
from a base wall of said base tray in a direction generally parallel to side walls of
said base tray.

18. The wire feeder of claim 14 wherein said elevated member includes
a router portion for organizing and routing cables or wires connected to said
housing.

19. The wire feeder of claim 18 wherein said router portion includes a plurality of vertically spaced holes.

20. The wire feeder of claim 14 wherein said elevated member includes a gun holder for retaining said welding gun when not used for welding.

21. The wire feeder of claim 2 wherein said housing includes:
a forward housing end wall;
a rearward housing end wall spaced from said forward housing end wall;
a base wall extending between said forward and said rearward housing
5 end walls, said wire advancing mechanism positioned above said base wall and
between planes generally defined by said forward and rearward housing end
walls.

22. The wire feeder of claim 21 wherein said housing further includes:
a dividing wall extending between said forward and rearward housing
walls, said wire advancing mechanism positioned on one side of said dividing
wall; and
5 a housing side wall extending between said forward and rearward housing
walls, said housing side wall spaced apart from said dividing wall on an opposite
side of said dividing wall from said wire advancing mechanism.

23. The wire feeder of claim 22 further including:
wire feeder control mechanisms in said housing between said dividing wall
and said housing side wall and between said forward and rearward housing end
walls; and
5 one or more controls on at least one of said forward and rearward housing
end walls operatively connected to said control mechanisms.

24. The wire feeder of claim 22 wherein said housing end walls and
said dividing wall form walls of said tray.

25. The wire feeder of claim 22 further including a cover having a tray portion closing an open end of said tray and remaining portions that cooperate with said housing to enclose said wire advancing mechanism, said cover pivotally connected to said housing adjacent said housing side wall such that when open
5 said remaining portions are remotely spaced from said wire advancing mechanism to allow easy access thereto.

26. A wire feeder for supplying consumable welding wire to a welding gun, comprising:
a housing for a wire feeder;
an advancing mechanism for paying wire through the housing to a welding
5 gun;
a wire spool support connected to said housing and rotatably supporting a wire spool having wire thereon that is connected to said advancing mechanism, said wire spool support including:
a bin,
10 an elevated member extending from said bin, and
a spool retention member connected to said elevated member and rotatably supporting said wire spool.

27. The wire feeder of claim 26 wherein said bin and said elevated member are removably connected to said housing.

28. The wire feeder of claim 26 wherein said elevated member includes a router portion for organizing and routing cables or wires connected to said housing.

29. The wire feeder of claim 28 wherein said router portion includes a plurality of vertically spaced holes.

30. The wire feeder of claim 26 wherein said housing includes a housing bin.

31. The wire feeder of claim 30 wherein walls of said housing form walls of said housing bin.

32. The wire feeder of claim 26 wherein said housing is formed of sheet metal.